

Customer No. 25280

Case No. 2168

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 35-47 were pending in the application. Claims 1-6 and 11-15 have been canceled. No claims have been amended or added. Thus, upon entry of this amendment, claims 7-10 and 35-47 are subject to continued examination. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections to such claims is requested at this time.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 7 – 10 and 38-47 and the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 36 and 37. As understood, the only remaining claim subject to an outstanding rejection is independent claim 35. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejection of claim 35 is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that independent claim 35 recites that at least the technical back of the fabric is chemically treated with a hydrophilic composition to render the plush surface hydrophilic, said hydrophilic composition comprising a high molecular weight ethoxylated polyester. (emphasis added). As best understood, the use of such high molecular weight ethoxylated polyester is not taught or suggested by the art of record. Applicants also note that the Office Action appears to be silent as to the finding of this feature in the cited art.

It is axiomatic that all elements of the claim must be taught or suggested in order to support an obviousness rejection. In the absence of such teaching or suggestion the rejection must be withdrawn. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 35 is allowable in its present form.

CONCLUSION:

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that all claims stand in condition for allowance. Prompt allowance and passage to issue is therefore requested.

While Applicants have attempted to address all outstanding issues, in the event that any issue remains unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney in the hope that such issue may be resolved in an expedient and satisfactory manner.

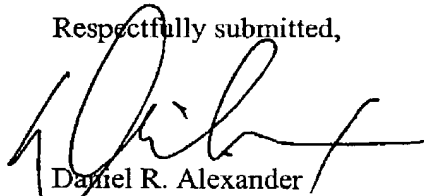
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To any extent as may be necessary, a petition for an extension of time is hereby made. Authorization is hereby provided to deduct any fee necessary for the acceptance of this paper from Deposit Account 04-0500.

April 1, 2004

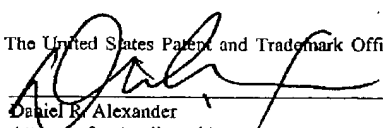
Respectfully submitted,



Daniel R. Alexander
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration Number 32,604
Telephone: (864) 503-1372

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to The United States Patent and Trademark Office at 703-872-9306 on April 1, 2004.



Daniel R. Alexander
Attorney for Applicant(s)